AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A sol, comprising:

- an aqueous phase;
- particles of a phosphate of ~~at least~~ one rare earth ~~selected from the group~~ consisting of cerium ~~and lanthanum~~;
- an acid other than phosphoric acid, ~~the~~ a cerium ~~and lanthanum salts~~ salt of which ~~are~~ is soluble in water.

2. (Previously Presented) A sol as claimed in claim 1, wherein said acid is selected from acids with a pK_a of at least 3.

3. (Previously Presented) A sol according to claim 1, wherein said acid is selected from the group consisting of nitric acid, acetic acid, formic acid, citric acid and propionic acid.

4. (Previously Presented) A sol according to claim 1, wherein its pH is at least 4.

5. (Previously Presented) A sol according to claim 1, wherein the rare earth phosphate particles are constituted by elementary crystals 5 nm to 20 nm thick and in the range 25 nm to 200 nm in length.

6. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a sol of a phosphate of at least one rare earth selected from the group consisting of cerium and lanthanum according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- mixing a solution of salts of at least one of said rare earths with phosphate ions in a PO_4^{3-}/rare earth mole ratio of more than 1 with control of the pH of the reaction medium to a value of more than 2;
- then ageing the precipitate obtained if the value of the pH of the reaction medium is in the range 2 to 6;
- separating the precipitate from the reaction medium;
- re-dispersing said precipitate in water;
- adding at least one salt of said rare earth and said acid to the dispersion in a quantity such that the final PO_4^{3-}/rare earth mole ratio in the dispersion is equal to 1.

7. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a sol of a phosphate of at least one rare earth selected from cerium and lanthanum according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- continuously introducing, with stirring, a first solution of salts of at least one of said rare earths into a solution containing phosphate ions and with an initial pH of less than 2; the phosphate ions being present in a quantity such that the PO_4^{3-} /rare earth mole ratio is more than 1;
- controlling the pH of the reaction medium to a substantially constant value of less than 2 during precipitation;
- separating the precipitate from the reaction medium;
- re-dispersing said precipitate in water;
- adding at least one salt of said rare earth and said acid to the dispersion obtained in a quantity such that the final PO_4^{3-}/rare earth mole ratio in the dispersion is 1.

8. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the pH of the precipitation medium is controlled by adding a basic compound.

9. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 8, wherein said basic compound is ammonium hydroxide.

10. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein said phosphate ions are in the form of an ammonium phosphate solution.

11. (Previously Presented) A polishing suspension, comprising a sol according to claim 1.

12. (Previously Presented) An anti-corrosion agent comprising the sol according to claim 1.

13. (Previously Presented) An anti-UV agent comprising the sol according to claim 1.

14. (New) A sol, comprising:

- an aqueous phase;
- particles of a phosphate of one rare earth consisting of lanthanum;
- an acid with a pK_a of at least 3, other than phosphoric acid, a lanthanum salt of which is soluble in water.

15. (New) A sol according to claim 14, wherein said acid is selected from the group consisting of nitric acid, acetic acid, formic acid, citric acid and propionic acid.

16. (New) A sol according to claim 14, wherein its pH is at least 4.

17. (New) A sol according to claim 14, wherein the rare earth phosphate particles are constituted by elementary crystals 5 nm to 20 nm thick and in the range 25 nm to 200 nm in length.